

BRIEFING PAPER
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

You are aware that this Agency and the Director personally have been very active with the Congress in recent weeks in connection with the U-2 incident. The Director's appearances on the Hill since the 31st of May have been publicized in the papers. You may not know that prior to the U-2 briefings the Director made 13 appearances before congressional committees this year. These appearances included the more or less routine briefings which we provide the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees on the general world situation and the intelligence briefing of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy as well as briefings of our own CIA Subcommittees in the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees. The Director has also briefed the House Committee on Science and Astronautics and the combined Senate Committees on Aeronautical and Space Sciences and Preparedness on the subject of the Soviet missile program covering our estimates of Soviet capabilities and intentions in the missile and space fields. Prior to the launching of the first Russian Sputnik, Agency briefings of congressional committees were in the number of five or six a year. Since the Sputnik, the frequency and number of briefings of

congressional committees increased sharply and has continued at this level ever since. Last year the Agency conducted 28 briefings of this type. (A list of the 1960 appearances is attached as Tab A.)

I believe you would be interested in the status of various congressional proposals which have been introduced to establish a joint committee on intelligence. Prior to the U-2 incident, 16 such measures were introduced; two have been introduced since the U-2 incident. (A list of these measures is attached as Tab B.) While some of the proponents of these measures have renewed their pressure for enactment, the House Rules Committee has informally tabled any action on these measures this year. In February 1959, the CIA Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee was reconstituted with Representative Paul Kilday as chairman. A number of the more junior members of the Armed Services Committee who would have more time and opportunity to meet with the Director and other Agency officials were appointed to this Subcommittee. The Agency has provided extensive briefings for this Subcommittee on the organization and mission of CIA. Despite the existence of this Subcommittee and a somewhat comparable Subcommittee in the Senate the matter of a joint committee will undoubtedly be raised again in the next congress.

The Legislative Counsel is also responsible for Agency liaison with Congressional Committees and with members of Congress individually. Our first obligation is to the CIA Subcommittees of the House and Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees. The Agency also maintains close relationships with the Foreign Relations and Foreign Affairs Committees, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Immigration Subcommittees of the House and Senate. Contacts with individual members of the congress include the handling of correspondence on specific inquiries which they may raise and more or less routine correspondence and liaison concerning cases of applicants recommended for employment with the Agency.

It is also the responsibility of the Legislative Counsel to screen all measures introduced in the Congress and determine which of those measures are of direct interest to the Agency. During this Congress, a total of over 15,000 measures have been introduced. (Resumes of legislative activity are attached as Tab C.) Measures of direct interest are reviewed in detail by the Legislative Counsel and referred to various interested offices within the Agency. Depending upon the nature of the proposal and its posture in the Congress, the Legislative Counsel may, on his own initiative or at the request of the Congress, prepare specific comments stating the Agency's position with respect to any given proposal. While it would be premature to give you a final

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analysis of legislation considered and enacted in the second session of the 86th Congress, I am sure you would be interested in the status of several specific proposals now pending. You have undoubtedly followed in the press the parliamentary maneuvering now being conducted in connection with proposed pay legislation. Whether or not a pay bill will be enacted this year is a matter of conjecture at this point. You would also be interested in a bill establishing uniform allowances for all government employees overseas. It will cover employees of the Agency, Department of Defense, and others. This bill has passed the House and hearings have been held by the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee. The bill also has the support of the Administration. Among other things this bill would establish a separate home leave system for employees of this Agency as well as others. Informed sources feel that there is good reason to believe that this bill will be enacted this year. A good example of the way in which our Legislative Counsel has obtained needed legislation is found in the recent extension of foreign service reserve officer appointments. Legislation authorizing the extension of these appointments from five to ten years by amendment of the Foreign Service Act was obtained at the specific request of this Agency by the insertion of a rider in the Mutual Security Act.

Attachments: Tabs A, B, C

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